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No Witch Hunting

WE AGREE WITH former President Eisenhower's warning against any "witch hunting" investigation of the Cuban invasion debacle and the blow to U. S. prestige that has proceeded from it. The proper course, as has also been said editorially here, is, in Mr. Eisenhower's words, "To see what we can do better in the future."

But a quiet, closed-door bipartisan study of how we went wrong—where we miscalculated—is far different from the partisan game of hunting witches. In fact, it should follow any national fiasco.

It is in this area that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, or its subcommittee on Latin American affairs, has a chance to do a real service. If, for example, the Central Intelligence Agency—which appears to be only slightly less competent than the Pentagon—came up with bad intelligence, we ought to be able to learn from that how "to do better in the future."

THE RECENT SUBCOMMITTEE inquiry, chairmaned by Sen. Wayne Morse, was closed-door in name only. Actually the door was ajar and through it Mr. Morse popped off with his summation of what Sec. of State Rusk reported, presumably in secret.

The full committee hearing the next day, presided over by Sen. J. William Fulbright, handled itself much better in hearing CIA Chief Allen Dulles. None of Mr. Dulles' testimony was disclosed.

If a matter is important enough to justify a closed hearing, it is obvious that news leaks can embarrass or damage national interests.

As concerns congressional committees, their members ought to understand their obligation to button up. As concerns the press, the President has already reminded responsible members that they have obligations, too.

The above editorial also appeared in the following other newspapers:

SAN ANTONIO LIGHT,
TEXAS - MAY 9, 1961
SAN FRANCISCO EXAM-
INER, CALIF. - MAY 8, 1961
MILWAUKEE SENTINEL
WISC.- MAY 9, 1961